

able advocate for his point of view, he is a willing listener, open to compromise and when an opponent, always gracious, reasonable and fair.

CONNIE MACK has made a name for himself in the Senate on public housing and health care issues, particularly his efforts to make FDA-approved drugs available for other uses, especially in the fight against cancer. He and his wife, Priscilla, both cancer survivors, have been inspirational in their dedication to delivering the message to all Americans that early detection of cancer is a life-saver.

CONNIE MACK and I have shared a special bond, one of those inside jokes which create strong personal ties. Whenever I hear of someone making a great speech, I shall smile inwardly, think of CONNIE and miss his warm smile and the kind word he has for all of his Senate colleagues. I hope that in the years ahead, CONNIE and Priscilla will visit often.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I want to pay a tribute to my friend and colleague from the State of Florida who has decided to leave the Senate after a distinguished 12-year career here. It has been my pleasure to work with Senator MACK during that time on a number of important issues.

He has always been willing to reach across the aisle when bipartisan cooperation can make the difference. As colleagues on the Finance Committee, we have cosponsored each other's bills on such varied subjects as benefits for retired coal miners, fairer treatment for real estate under the Internal Revenue Code, and keeping gray market cigarettes out of the U.S. market. Senator MACK has been a generous, thoughtful, and constructive member of our committee, and we will miss his presence there every much.

Year in and year out, I am constantly impressed with the energy, intelligence, and commitment that CONNIE MACK brings to the challenging job of representing such a large and diverse State. Floridians have been privileged to have the benefit of his effective advocacy for their concerns.

I am confident that a man with public policy interests over as wide a range as CONNIE has shown during his tenure in the body is still going to be checking in with his old friends in the Senate to let us know what he's thinking. I hope we will see him often in the coming years.

I am happy to join my colleagues in wishing only the best for CONNIE and Priscilla as they move on to the next chapter in their lives.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Senator CONNIE MACK of Florida. There are many ways to discern the character of a Senator. CONNIE MACK has made his mark with strong leadership coupled with an unusual quality of gentleness. A true gentleman of the Senate. Senatorial courtesy was his hallmark. He loved this institution; it loved him.

One unique, but subtle mannerism reveals the inner security of this great

man—how he handled the gavel. The gavel is that symbol of authority so coveted by all Senators. As we all know, a gavel consists of two parts: the relatively small handle to hold, and the large hammer-like head to strike the blow. Senate Chairmen love the sharp "bang" connoting authority and decision.

Senator MACK is the only Senator, the only Chairman, whom I have observed in my 22 years of service who simply used the hammer head for the grip and conveyed his authority by gently tapping the end of the handle.

"May we have order, please." Immediately following was always quiet acceptance.

This symbolized to me how this elegant man commanded the great respect of all in the Senate. As with the gavel, his voice was always firm, and always with the soft tone of confidence.

We wish him well, together with his wife and family, as they accept life's next challenge.

RETIREMENT OF SENATOR RICHARD BRYAN

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the selfless and noteworthy service of our esteemed colleague from Nevada, Senator RICHARD BRYAN. At the close of the 106th Congress, Senator BRYAN will retire from public service, and will end the final chapter in a most glorious and dedicated career as a servant of the people.

Even at an early age, RICHARD BRYAN displayed the leadership, sense of caring, and charisma that make for a successful public servant. Throughout his education he served as the president of many of his classes, including as the student body president his senior year at the University of Nevada-Reno.

After graduating, Senator BRYAN was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army and served his country on active duty from 1959 to 1960. He then entered the University of California, Hastings College of Law, and graduated with honors in 1963.

Senator BRYAN returned home to Nevada and began a career in public service that would, to the benefit of the citizens of Nevada, span more than three decades. From 1964 to 1978, he served as a Deputy District Attorney, a Public Defender, a State Assemblyman, and a State Senator. In 1978, Senator BRYAN won his first state wide election when the people elected him Attorney General. Four years later RICHARD BRYAN became Nevada's 26th Governor. After two terms as Governor, in 1988, he won election to the United States Senate. Richard BRYAN is the only Nevadan to have served as the state's Attorney General, Governor, and United States Senator.

Clearly, Senator RICHARD BRYAN has always kept in mind the best interests of the people of Nevada and they have consistently asked him to represent these concerns. Additionally, over the

last twelve years, Senator BRYAN has become one of the Nation's leading consumer advocates. His deep concern for the consumer was evident by his successful campaign to require the installation of passenger side air bags in all cars sold in the United States. Many lives have been saved because of Senator BRYAN's promotion of this legislation.

It has been a pleasure getting to know Senator RICHARD BRYAN these past twelve years, and I wish he, and his fine wife Bonnie, the best of luck in the future. I know they will enjoy all the benefits of retirement, especially the opportunity to spend more time with their family.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the leadership and accomplishments of an esteemed colleague who will be retiring at the end of this term. Senator RICHARD BRYAN has served in the Congress as a representative of Nevada for more than a decade. During his tenure, he has been a tireless advocate of a wide range of legislative reform activities.

Throughout his career, Senator BRYAN has fought for improving natural resources, enhancing the quality of the nation's classrooms, and protecting privacy on the Internet. Senator BRYAN has also been nationally recognized for his efforts on behalf of consumers.

As the former Chairman of the Senate Consumer Affair Subcommittee, Senator BRYAN was responsible for enacting laws to give consumers new powers to correct errors found on their credit reports and led the fight against telemarketing fraud. Perhaps most notably, DICK BRYAN was a champion of 1993 legislation that required air bags be installed in every new car sold in the U.S. These are important accomplishments that benefit consumers across the nation.

As colleagues on the Finance Committee, we have fought to address the challenges facing Social Security and Medicare. Just this year, we worked closely to develop a proposal to provide prescription drug coverage for all Medicare beneficiaries. I am proud to say that this proposal would provide much needed drug coverage to millions of seniors citizens and disabled individuals.

I have also had the opportunity to work with Senator BRYAN to address a very important priority for the nation—balancing the federal budget. We enjoy federal budget surpluses today because of the efforts of members like Senator BRYAN who supported measures to cut government waste and get our fiscal house in order.

For these and many other reasons, I have been honored to serve with DICK BRYAN. I would like to join my colleagues in wishing the Senator and his family the best in the future and in paying tribute to DICK BRYAN's lifelong commitment to public service. I wish him well.